

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 09394 230747Z

10

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 EB-11 H-03 INR-10 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

NSCE-00 M-03 OC-06 PRS-01 RSC-01 SS-15 USIE-00

USSS-00 SY-10 FAA-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 RSR-01 /136 W

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O 230535Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5545

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 9394

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, XF, JA, TC

SUBJECT: JAL HIJACKING: ROLE OF JAPANESE DELEGATION

REFS: A) ABU DHABI 1006; B) STATE 143963.

1. EMBOFF MET WITH FONOFF MIDDLE EAST DIV HEAD YAMAMOTO
AT 1100 JULY 23 FOR INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND REVIEW OF
SITUATION AS SEEN FROM TOKYO. SOME ASPECTS SENT SEPTELS.

2. IN RESPOMSE TO QUESTION, YAMAMOTO SAID JAPANESE
DELEGATION IN DUBAI IS ATTEMPTING TO SUPPORT AND BACK-
STOP EFFORTS OF UAE DEFMIN AS NEGOTIATOR BUT IS NOT
ITSELF TAKING INITIATIVES. DELEGATION IS OBSERVING
AND GATHERING INFORMATION, AND FOR THIS PURPOSE SOME
MEMBERS ARE IN DUBAI AIRPORT CONTROL TOWER.

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 09394 230747Z

3. YAMAMOTA HAS REPORT THAT AT ONE POINT DEFMIN ASKED JAL CHAIRMAN IF HE INTENDED TO COMMUNICATE WITH HI-JACKERS, BUT LATTER REPLIED FOR MOMENT HE WOULD NOT. CHAIRMAN HAS ASKED DEFMIN TO ATTEMPT TO SECURE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF WOMEN, CHILDREN, AGED AND ANYONE WHOSE HEALTH SERIOUSLY ENDAMGERED BY CONDITIONS INSIDE AIR-CRAFT.

4. YAMAMOTO SAID JAPANESE DELEGATION WAS NOT CONSULTED FIRST TIME AIRCRAFT WAS REFUELED; TRIED TO PREVENT SECOND REFUELING BUT DEFMIN PERMITTED IT BECAUSE OF THREATS FROM HIJACKERS.

5. ACCORDING TO YAMAMOTO, BOTH DEFMIN AND PRIMIN DENIED RUMOR THAT HIJACKERS HAVE REQUESTED \$5 MILLION RANSOM. FOMOFF UNDERSTANDS HIJACKERS HAVE NOT YET MADE ANY MAJOR DEMANDS. RATHER, THEY APPEAR TO BE AWAITING INSTRUCTIONS FROM ELSEWHERE. EVIDENCE FOR LATTER POINT IS CONSISTENT STATEMENT FROM HIJACKERS THAT THEY DON'T KNOW WHETHER OR NOT THEY WILL TAKE OFF AGAIN, OR IF SO WHERE THEY WOULD GO. IN THIS CONNECTION, YAMAMOTO SAID FONOFF FULLY AGREES THAT HOLDING PLANE ON GROUND OFFERS MUCH BETTER PROSPECTS THAN TRYING TO CONTROL IT ONCE IT BECOMES AIRBORNE AGAIN. FONOFF UNDERSTANDS DEFMIN HAS ESTABLISHED SATISFACTORY RAPPORT WITH HIJACKERS.

6. COMMENT: GOJ CONTINUES TO BE MOST GRATEFUL FOR INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE FROM USG. EMBASSY HAS IMPRESSION FONOFX SEES NO OPPORTUNITY FOR POSITIVE GOJ INTERVENTION AT THIS POINT AND PREFERS TO LEAVE

MATTER IN HANDS OF UAE DEFMIN WHILE RENDERING ANY SUPPORT HE MAY REQUIRE.
SHOESMITH

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